Distribution of land to landless tribals

2899. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the threat of non-cooperation by the Gujarat Government with the Central Government, in the matter of distribution of land to landless tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to protect the interest of tribals as far as distribution of forest land is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has enacted the 'Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' to recognise and vest certain rights over forest land on forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

Rise in dowry cases

2900. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dowry cases have been on a rise in the last few years;

(b) if so, the increase in the complaints registered in such cases during 2004-06; and

(c) the action plan of Government to control this unabated rising trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the number of cases of Dowry Death [Section 304-B IPC] reported in the country during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 were 2684 and 6208, 3592 and 7026 and 3204 and 6787 respectively, thereby, showing a mixed trend in the incidence. Similar information for .the year 2006 is under collection by the Bureau.

(c) Action is being taken for the empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them, as mentioned in the given Statement (*See* below). The Government has also advised all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to ensure full compliance with the directions contained in the judgement dated 2.5.2005 of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 499/1997 in fhe matter of 'Re-enforcement and Implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961'.